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MEMORANDUM TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

**SUBJECT: Visits of New York Herald Tribune Representative
to FBI Office**

1. On 28 January 1948 Mr. Luther Reid, of State Department press office, called me to say that he had referred to me Mr. Robert Bird, of the New York Herald Tribune, who wanted material for a series of articles on Soviet propaganda. Mr. Reid hoped that we could help Mr. Bird, who would protect the source of any information released.

2. I called [redacted] of Requirements Branch, OGD, for clearance, explaining that when Mr. Bird came in the easiest procedure from our point of view would be "to give him some general guidance and then to turn him loose on the files of our weekly Survey of USSR Broadcasts". [redacted] called me back to say that [redacted] was taking the matter up with Mr. Houston and perhaps with [redacted]

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3. On 29 January Mr. Houston called to say that he had cleared Mr. Bird's use of the Survey files with [redacted], provided that the source of information was protected and that Mr. Bird would not use press (i.e., TASS) material as such because of the copyright principle.

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[redacted] later called to confirm the clearance, suggesting that Mr. Bird be sent to Mr. Houston for briefing before beginning his study. I told him that Mr. Houston had delegated the briefing responsibility to me.

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4. On 30 January Mr. Bird spent an hour in my office discussing his project and receiving general guidance from [redacted]. For two weeks beginning 30 January he spent several hours daily at a desk in [redacted] office reading back issues of the weekly Survey and taking notes. He had completed his compilation of material last week, and has no further occasion to enter FBI offices. He has promised not to reveal that he was permitted to make his study here.

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5. Mr. Bird was not permitted to enter other offices or to make any observation of classified activities or information other than the fact that six employees were compiling the weekly Survey.

6. Indiscretion on my part is acknowledged in failing to clear explicitly with higher authority the security aspects of Mr. Bird's visits.

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cc: [redacted]

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